

March 23, 2020

IBEW LU 234

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (COVID-19) has been classified as a pandemic and a National Emergency. Per the California Employment Development Department, "while investigations to learn more about the virus are ongoing, workers and employers should review their health and safety procedures to help prevent exposure to the virus." Please find below various updates and resources for IBEW 234 members.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND WORKER BENEFITS

In the face of the coronavirus, the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) wants to keep workers, employers, co-workers, and families safe. What employees are entitled to may be confusing. We are trying to make it easier and spread awareness through this centralized source of info. Use the guidance below to determine what is best for you, your family, and your workplace. And check out their webpage for more details: <https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/>

BENEFITS FOR WORKERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

In the face of the coronavirus, the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) wants to keep workers, employers, communities and families safe. What employees are entitled to may be confusing. The purpose of this chart is to make it easier to understand what resources may be available.

[Labor.ca.gov/Coronavirus2019](https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019)

Program	Why	What	Benefits
Disability Insurance	If you're unable to work due to medical quarantine or illness related to COVID-19 (certified by a medical professional)	Short-term benefit payments to eligible workers who have a full or partial loss of wages due to a non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy.	Approximately 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income); ranges from \$50-\$1,300 a week for up to 52 weeks.
Paid Family Leave	If you're unable to work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19 (certified by a medical professional)	Up to six weeks of benefit payments to eligible workers who have a full or partial loss of wages because they need time off work to care for a seriously ill family member.	Approximately 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income); ranges from \$50-\$1,300 a week for up to 6 weeks.
Unemployment Insurance	If you have lost your job or have had your hours reduced for reasons related to COVID-19	Partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own.	Range from \$40-\$450 per week for up to 26 weeks.
Paid Sick Leave	If you or a family member are sick or for preventative care when civil authorities recommend quarantine	The leave you have accumulated or your employer has provided to you under the Paid Sick Leave law.	Paid to you at your regular rate of pay or an average based on the past 90 days.
Workers' Compensation	If you are unable to do your usual job because you were exposed to and contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of your work, you may be eligible for workers' compensation benefits.	Benefits include temporary disability (TD) payments, which begin when your doctor says you can't do your usual work for more than three days or you are hospitalized overnight. You may be entitled to TD for up to 104 weeks. TD stops when either you return to work, your doctor releases you for work, or your doctor says your illness has improved as much as it's going to.	TD generally pays two-thirds of the gross wages you lose while you are recovering from a work-related illness or injury, up to maximum weekly amount set by law. In addition, eligible employees are entitled to medical treatment and additional payments if a doctor determines you suffered a permanent disability because of the illness.

Additionally, California has waived the 1 week waiting period for those unemployed or disabled because of COVID-19. If a medical professional says you're unable to work, if your hours have been reduced, or your employer has shut down -- you can file a claim. See the EDD website for more details:
https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm

IBEW LU 234

Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to postpone some events due to the developing situation with COVID-19. In the meantime, please practice all recommended precautions—wash your hands regularly, avoid unnecessary group activities, and stay healthy and safe. Protect yourselves and each other.

OFFICE HOURS

Our offices doors will remain closed until further notice. The office is available online and by telephone for any questions or concerns.

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To help prevent the spread of the virus, we encourage you to please take effort to conduct business with us online or by telephone.

IBEW 234 GROUP MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The next monthly meeting on April 8th is scheduled; however, it may be postponed should Covid-19 continue to disrupt our regular schedule. We will postpone all IBEW 234 group meetings and events held at IBEW 234 until at least April 6th.

APPRENTICESHIP CLASSES

All apprenticeship classes are suspended until further notice. All apprentices are to continue their coursework remotely from home. An online delivery system is being chosen at this time; however, your instructors currently will send coursework via email.

DISPATCH

Dispatch is now functioning as normal.

JOURNEYMAN UPGRADE COURSES

Journeyman upgrade coursework is suspended until further notice.

TRI-COUNTY IBEW LOCAL 234

The health authorities tell us that to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, we must:

Wash hands frequently.

Heighten cleaning practices.

Avoid contact with sick people.

Stay away from work when ill.

Do not travel to areas with high infection rates.

All of our actions are focused on these areas. We will continue to monitor Health Services and continue to adjust solutions and actions as we learn more.